

in the new legislature, with some boasting of their membership in the organization to fellow legislators. Holden's impeachment trial lasted until March 22, 1871, when he was convicted on six out of eight charges. He was succeeded by Lieutenant Governor Tod R. Caldwell, who was powerless to curtail the actions of the new legislature as it reversed Holden's actions on almost every front.<sup>88</sup>

After the Democrats regained control of state government, the Klan was no longer needed as a political tool. Still, Klan violence escalated in western sections of the state, and, as a consequence, Republicans successfully lobbied the federal government for assistance. The ensuing investigations by a congressional committee resulted in the passage of several laws, most specifically the Ku Klux Klan Act, which defined traditional Klan actions and assigned penalties to those actions. The act also allowed the federal government to declare Klan-affected areas in rebellion in order to use federal forces to restore order. Following the passage of the act, federal troops were sent into the state, effecting hundreds of arrests and as many as 1,400 indictments. The trials that followed effectively turned Klan members against each other through testimony and confessions in the courts. Thus, because Democratic control over the legislature ended the need for overt Klan actions and federal intervention silenced the remainder, the Klan disappeared in North Carolina by late 1872 and did not become a major factor in state politics again until the 1920s.<sup>89</sup>

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<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=W000002>.

<sup>88</sup> Evans, *Ballots and Fence Rails*, 223-225; Zuber, *North Carolina During Reconstruction*, 41-44.

<sup>89</sup> Hamilton indicated that the Klan applied "illegal force which overthrew Reconstruction and ultimately restored political power to the white race" as a result of its actions in securing Democratic victory. Hamilton further explained that Klan action was

The presence of federal forces reinforced the position of the Republican Party somewhat, enabling Caldwell to win the 1872 gubernatorial election over the Democratic candidate. Even though a Republican was elected governor, Conservative Democrats still maintained control of the General Assembly. They made changes to the constitution in 1873 and 1875, effectively developing a mechanism for the Democratic Party to control as much of state and local government as possible from Raleigh, removing the ability of local blacks and Republicans to hold county offices. The Democrats' changes to the constitution also drew sharper lines between races, instituting stipulations that whites and blacks could not attend school together or intermarry.<sup>90</sup>

Conservatives employed many methods to minimize the impact of Republican dominance in the Cape Fear. They first lopped off the northern two-thirds of New Hanover County to create Pender County. Another effort involved redrafting Wilmington's charter to provide Conservatives in the city with a guaranteed majority in city government.<sup>91</sup> Both the

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usually carefully planned but, as the organization grew, control over camps broke down and discipline of members relaxed. By the end of its lifetime during Reconstruction, Hamilton explained that "it had clearly outlived any usefulness it may have had." Hamilton, *Reconstruction*, 453-480, 572-581; Zuber, *Reconstruction in North Carolina*, 44-47; Trelease, *White Terror*, 348.

<sup>90</sup> Conservatives sought every change to challenge or nullify the demands of Congressional Reconstruction. North Carolina became a model for southern oppositions to Reconstruction as it legislated resistance to Washington. Southern politicians felt that North Carolina's lead would compel other states to follow suit and slowly overturn federal Reconstruction policies. Zuber, *Reconstruction in North Carolina*, 48-49; Hamilton *Reconstruction*, 592, 594, 595-604; Haley, *Charles N. Hunter*, 22.

<sup>91</sup> Conservatives felt that if they could chop New Hanover's rural population away from the city's influence, their interests could dominate the rural